

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 STR-04

SWF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-10 ARA-10

EA-10 NEA-10 IO-10 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AID-05

L-02 /112 W

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P R 291850Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5184

INFO USDA/FAS WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14083

FOR PILKAUSKAS, EB/ORF/ICD/TRP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: COCOA: MEETING OF STATISTICS COMMITTEE OF
INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION (ICCO), OCTOBER 28-29

REF: STATE 235582

1. ICCO STATISTICS COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED EARLY
AFTERNOON OCTOBER 29 AFTER COVERING ALL ITEMS ON
AGENDA. DESPITE POOR ATTENDANCE WHICH LED TO RESORT
TO FAO DATA IN MANY CASES, MEETING WAS MOST WORKMANLIKE.
BOTH HACKMAN AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CUTLER (UK)
EMPHASIZED THAT THIS COMMITTEE MUST "SEEK OUT THE
TRUTH" RATHER THAN BE A FORUM FOR EXERCISES IN THE
POLITICS OF STATISTICS.

2. COMMITTEE DEVELOPED REVISED ESTIMATES AND FORECAST
AS FOLLOWS (IN THOUSANDS METRIC TONS):

(A) GRINDINGS - 1973 - 1,542.0
- 1974 - 1477.4

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- 1974/75 - 1,423.0

(B) PRODUCTION - 1972/73 - 1,410.2
- 1973/74 - 1,407.4
- 1974/75 - 1,432.7

NOTE: DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT FOR THE GRINDINGS FORECAST AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO SHIFT FROM CALENDAR TO CROP YEAR. SINCE FAO DATA ARE ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS AND MUCH FAO DATA USED (INCLUDING THE FORECAST FOR THE US PROVIDED BY THE US OBSERVER), OBVIOUSLY THE GRINDINGS FORECAST FIGURE IS LESS THAN IDEAL. A BETTER ESTIMATE MIGHT SHOW A SOMEWHAT HIGHER 1974/75 FORECAST; NEVERTHELESS THE FACT IS INESCAPABLE THAT GRINDINGS ARE ON THE DECLINE, WITH PRACTICALLY EVERY MAJOR CONSUMER EXPECTING A FALLOFF IN THE COMING YEAR. REASONS SUGGESTED FOR THIS INCLUDED, HIGH PRICES OF COCOA AND SUGAR AND ANTICIPATED CONTRACTION IN DEMAND BECAUSE OF WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

3. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RELEASE TOTALS IN A PRESS COMMUNIQUE, A PRACTICE WHICH WILL BE CONTINUED IF APPROVAL IS OBTAINED FROM THE ICCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. CONCERNING PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTTEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HACKMAN REPORTED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS TOWARD PUBLICATION OF NEW QUARTERLY. FIRST ISSUE, CONTAINING 21 TABLES, SHOULD BE PUBLISHED IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS, I.E., ABOUT MID-NOVEMBER. IN THIS ISSUE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY TABLES AND STOCKS TABLES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED.

5. CONCERNING COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRES, A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES STILL HAVE NOT RESPONDED, HOWEVER MANY LARGER MEMBERS, SUCH AS BRAZIL, CANADA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, JAPAN, UK AND THE USSR HAVE. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, MANY, IF NOT MOST, EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN AND, THEREFORE, THE QUALITY OF RESPONSES IS SUSPECT. THE SECRETARIAT HAS NOW ISSUED A NEW QUESTIONNAIRE ENTITLED "SIMPLIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF COCOA STATISTICS," WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EB/ORF/ICO/TRP WITH DETAILED COMMENTS.

6. US OBSERVER REFERRED VERY LIGHTLY TO OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FIRST QUESTIONNAIRE (BUT DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS IN MORE DETAIL WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF). THE CHAIRMAN THANKED THE US FOR THE AMOUNT OF DATA WE HAVE ALREADY SUPPLIED AND OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMITTEE.

7. CONCERNING PARA. 3 REFTEL RE PROPOSED IN DEPTH STUDY OF WORLD COCOA ECONOMY, AFTER FAIRLY LENGTHY DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE APPROVED SUBMISSION OF PROJECT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MEETS LATE THIS WEEK) WHERE APPROVAL LIKELY. SECRETARIAT TABLED BACKUP PAPER,

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FOR PILKAUSKAS

ENTITLED, "LONG-TERM SUPPLY AND DEMAND PROJECTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY OF THE WORLD'S CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVE AND CONSUMPTION CAPACITY." STUDY WILL BE AMBITIOUS ATTEMPT TO PRODUCE ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION FOR WORLD AND MAJOR PRODUCERS FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS THROUGH STUDY OF CONSTRAINTS AND PLANS IN PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY COMPARISONS. SIMILARLY, EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ASSESS FACTORS INFLUENCING DEMAND IN CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

8. SECRETARIAT ESTIMATES COST TO ICCO AT SLIGHTLY OVER 20,000 POUNDS STERLING (AMOUNT ALREADY BUDGETED

BY ICCO COUNCIL FOR UNSPECIFIED STUDIES). THIS INCLUDES SOME 4,000 POUNDS FOR SECRETARIAT TRAVEL AND 9,000 POUNDS FOR CONSULTANT EXPENSES, INCLUDING TRAVEL. TRAVEL WILL EMBRACE VISITS TO MAJOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, WITH HOPED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USDA, COMMERCE AND IBRD IN WASHINGTON. ROURKE OF SECRETARIAT WILL BE IN OVERALL CHARGE.

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9. CONCERNING FAO PARTICIPATION, HACKMAN ANNOUNCED DR. VITON OF FAO WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE AVAILABLE AS CONSULTANT. TERMS OF VITON PARTICIPATION NOT MENTIONED, BUT CUTLER SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED TO US OBSERVER THAT THIS WOULD COME OUT OF ICCO BUDGET, "SO U.S. DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY."

10. MAJOR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO COMPLETE STUDY BY AUGUST 1975 IN ORDER TO HAVE AS BACKGROUND FOR NEGOTIATION OF NEW COCOA AGREEMENT. INDEED, POINT WAS MADE BY ONE DELEGATION THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY SUCH A LARGE EXPENDITURE UNLESS THIS OBJECTIVE CAN REALISTICALLY BE MET.

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